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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 103063
P 161425Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4373

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 2968

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S AUDIENCE WITH KING FAISAL

SUMMARY: BELIEVE PRESENTATION OF MOON ROCK SAMPLE WOULD BE PROPITIOUS OCCASION TO ADDRESS SOME OF KING FAISAL'S RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT US POLICY TOWARD MIDDLE EAST AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPACT ON US-SAUDI RELATION. BEST APPROACH WOULD BE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE POINTING OUT AREAS OF CLOSE, PRODUCTIVE US-SAG COOPERATION AND WHICH INCLUDES SOME HELPFUL REMARKS ALSO RE MIDDLE EAST (PERHAPS MENTIONING US SUPPORT FOR WALDHEIM MISSION). PLEASE ADVISE. END SUMMARY.

1. SOMETIME WITHIN ABOUT NEXT TEN DAYS I WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED WITH PRESENTATION TO KING FAISAL OF MOON SAMPLE AND ACCOMPANYING LETTER OF TRANSMISSION SIGNED BY PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH INITIALLY IT HAD BEEN MY IDEA LEAVE PERHAPS TO SOME VISITOR FROM WASHINGTON OPTION OF MAKING THIS GESTURE IF IT SEEMED DESIRABLE. NOW, HOWEVER, SINCE SAMPLES ARE BEING PRESENTED TO OTHER HEADS OF STATE, WE SHOULD NOT DELAY TOO MUCH LONGER HERE.

2. OCCASION WILL PROVIDE FAVORABLE SETTING FOR MY ENDEAVORING PLACE IN KING'S MIND SOME CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHTS TO HELP IF POSSIBLE MITIGATE GRADUALLY MORE NEGATIVE TREND OF HIS OUTLOOK TOWARD US. MOST EFFECTIVE FORM FOR DELIVERY OF POSITIVE IDEAS WOULD BE AS ORAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT, AND I WOULD HOPE DEPT MIGHT GIVE
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THIS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION EVEN THOUGH I REALIZE CIRCUM-

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STANCES MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION AT
THIS TIME.

3. WHATEVER FORM OF MESSAGE, IT WOULD REPRESENT OPPORT-
UNITY REMIND FAISAL OF THOSE ASPECTS OF US-SAUDI RELATIONS
WHICH US SIDE REGARDS AS HAVING POSITIVE ONGOING CHARACTER.
STATEMENT AFTER PRESENTATION OF MOON ROCK SAMPLE MIGHT IN-
CLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WE ARE ANXIOUS HAVE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY DIALOGUE WITH
SAG AT ALL LEVELS AS HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE IN PAST.

B. MESSAGE SHOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY, THEREFORE, REASSURE
HIS MAJESTY FULLY OF CONTINUED STRENGTH OF US FRIEND-
SHIP FOR SAUDI ARABIA. THERE HAS BEEN NO LESSENING IN
OUR TRADITIONAL CONCERN FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S WELFARE AND
SECURITY AS EXPRESSED OVER MANY YEARS BY MANY PRESIDENTS
IN COMMUNICATIONS AND PERSONALLY TO HIS MAJESTY.

C. SAUDI ARABIA'S INCREASING WEALTH PLACES IT ON THRESH-
HOLD OF PERIOD OF GREAT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.
WE WISH SAUDI ARABIA EVERY POSSIBLE BENEFIT FROM THIS
NEW ERA. AMERICAN GOVT STANDS READY TO HELP FIND TECH-
NICIANS OR ADVISERS TO ASSIST IN THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE
HOPE SHORTLY TO PROPOSE AGREEMENT FOR CONSIDERATION BY
SAG BY WHICH WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THIS RESPECT.

D. A MUCH LARGER ROLE, HOWEVER, MAY BE PLAYED BY
AMERICAN PRIVATE BUSINESS, AND WE NOTE A NUMBER OF LARGE
AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS HAVE RECENTLY HAD USEFUL DIS-
CUSSIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA LOOKING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF
INDUSTRIES HERE.

E. AS HIS MAJESTY KNOWS, WE ARE PREPARED, AS SAG MAY
WISH, TO PLACE AT HIS DISPOSAL FRUITS OF AMERICAN
MANAGEMENT AND OF OUR WORLD LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT AND OF MANY TYPES OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT TO
ASSIST IN STRENGTHENING SAUDI DEFENSES. WE WILL DO OUR
BEST TO CONTINUE TO EXPEDITE USG RESPONSES TO SAUDI
REQUESTS.

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EXDIS

F. FINALLY, AS TO ARAB-ISRAEL QUESTION, HIS MAJESTY CAN BE CERTAIN THAT WE ARE NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH PRESENT SITUATION. WE CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS TO ENCOURAGE TWO SIDES TO REACH UNDERSTANDING AND THIS REMAINS A MATTER OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY ROGERS. PRESENTLY WORLD'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSSED ON DEBATE IN SC AT UN. WE HAVE FOUND DISCUSSION SO FAR REASONABLE AND ON WHOLE HELPFUL. WE ARE NOT AT THIS STAGE CERTAIN OF WHAT ITS OUTCOME MIGHT BE, BUT IN PRINCIPLE, AND IF APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE FORMULATED FOR SECGEN WALDHEIM, WE WOULD FAVOR IDEA OF HIS ENGAGING HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN THE PROBLEM, THOUGH OF COURSE WE CANNOT PRECEIVE WHERE SECGEN'S EFFORTS MIGHT LEAD. WE WILL, OF COURSE, THROUGH OUR MISSION IN NEW YORK AND THROUGH FONMINISTRY HERE KEEP HIS MAJESTY FULLY INFOMRED ON NATURE AND PROSPECTS OF SECGEN'S EFFORTS. (HOPE CAN RETAIN THIS REFERENCE IN SOME FORM, SINCE IT SEEMS TO REPRESENT ALMOST ONLY NEW AND POSITIVE ASPECT OF ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION THAT WE CAN DRAW TO KING'S ATTENTION TO COUNTER IN PART USUAL VOLUME OF NEGATIVE COMMENTS HE WILL MAKE ON THIS SUBJECT.)

4. DURING AUDIENCE WE WOULD EXPECT FAISAL TO REITERATE SOME OF WARNING STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE TO OIL MEN OVER PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS AND MORE RECENTLY TO TWO US NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS. IF HE DOES SO, I WOULD REPLY THAT DECISION IS, OF COURSE, FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO MAKE. US, HOWEVER, SEEKS COOPERATION IN OIL MATTERS AND STRONGLY OPPOSES ANY IDEA
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OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING AND OIL CONSUMING STATES. SUCH CONFRONTATION COULD ONLY HARM INTERDEPENDENT

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INTERESTS OF FREE WORLD NATIONS. OIL HAS BECOME SO IMPORTANT TO INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND DEMAND IS INCREASING SO RAPIDLY THAT THERE MAY BE RISKS OF UNEXPECTED SHORTAGES. CONSUMER GOVTS ARE ENTITLED TO STUDY HOW WE MIGHT COPE WITH THIS. WE ARE ENCOURAGING CLOSE CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION ON PART OF CONSUMING GOVTS WITH PRODUCING GOVTS IN SUCH MATTERS. FOR OUR PART WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO CONSIDER HOW WE CAN AMELIORATE DIFFICULT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND TO STRIVE ALSO TO COOPERATE WITH SAUDI ARABIA IN PETROLEUM AFFAIRS. WE HOPE WE MAY FIND SAUDI ARABIA PREPARED TO RECIPROCATE THAT COOPERATION.

5. IN EARLY MAY I WAS AUTHORIZED INFORM FAISAL CONCERNS HE HAD EXPRESSED TO ARAMCO HAD BEEN PASSED TO HIGHEST LEVEL USG. WE HAVE HAD NOTHING IN TO SAY TO HIM SINCE THEN. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT WE MOVE PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE ENDEAVOR REMIND KING THAT IN MANY RESPECTS OUR TIES WITH HIM REMAIN FIRM AND FRENDLY AND ADDRESS IN SOME FASHION HIS REITERATED CONCERN OVER ARAB-ISRAEL QUESTION. DEPT'S VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
THACHER

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